

28 April 56

On April 25, 1956, I received a telephone call from Mr. Antonovich, a Ukrainian residing in Arlington, Va. I was introduced to Mr. Antonovich by Mr. M. Lebid in January 1956 at the Mayflower Hotel during the celebration of the Ukrainian Independence Day.

Mr. Antonovich arrived in the US in 1950, is married, his address is:

631 S. Walter Reed Drive
Arlington, Va. Tel. JA 7-8823

Mr. Antonovich is the President of the American-Ukrainian Congress Committee for Washington, D.C. He is also the District of Columbia representative of the U.O.W.R.

Mr. Antonovich informed me that Mr. Lebid would like to meet me in New York during the Conference of the Institute for the Study of the USSR on April 28-29, 1956.

On April 28 I was approached in New York by Mr. Roman Olesnicki, who arranged the terms of my meeting with Mr. Lebid for 5 p.m. of the same day. I met Mr. Lebid in the basement restaurant of the Commodore Hotel, East 42nd Street. Roman Olesnicki participated in our meeting.

Mr. Lebid informed me that he is planning the publication of a periodical in English and is sending some representatives of the refugees from behind the Iron Curtain to Asian and African countries for an anti-Soviet and anti-colonial propaganda tour.

The periodical is to inform the Asians that the non-Russian peoples of the USSR, and of the Soviet Bloc in general, are enslaved by Moscow; to inform the Asians about the danger of Soviet imperialism and colonialism and to give a fair warning to the recently liberated nations of the East. Through the periodical, as well as through the representatives of the refugees from behind the Iron Curtain, Mr. Lebid plans to establish personal contacts with political leaders and statesmen in the East and mobilize them for the anti-Communist cause. The whole project is also to accelerate a rapprochement between the Islamic and Christian societies for a common anti-atheistic and anti-Communist cause.

I presume that Mr. Lebid has already received necessary means and support from American sources. Mr. Lebid requested me to read and evaluate the material collected for his publication. Besides this, he requested me to recommend some talented Moslem refugees to prepare articles for the periodical as well as to be sent to Asia. Also, he requested me to supply him with addresses of prospective receivers of the periodical.

My answer was as follows: I welcomed his initiative in starting some new kind of struggle against Communism, but I personally cannot participate in his work since I do not live in New York. I can provide him with some advice through Mr. Antonovich who lives in Arlington, Va.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE: METHOD 5XENP-1 ON 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DOCUMENTS ACT
DATE 2007

At the end of our meeting (which lasted one hour), Mr. Lebid invited me to pay a call at his office to read two articles already received for publication. On Monday, April 30, I visited his office: 875 West End Avenue, Apt. 14b, tel. MO 3-8461, and read the articles in question.

During this second meeting Mr. Lebid requested that I supply him with letters of recommendation for his men who will go to Asia in the near future. My answer was that I must know who and for what they are going to the East and that this is a condition of my consent to give him my letters.

This was the end of my second meeting.

My impression:

I think that the Ukrainians, who are not well known in Asia and are very often taken for Russians, cannot acquire easily the sympathy and confidence of the Eastern leaders and politicians.